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THE PERRY MEMORIAL And Centennial Celebration

Under the auspices of the National Government and the
States of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin,
New York, Rhode Island, Kentucky, Minnesota and Indiana

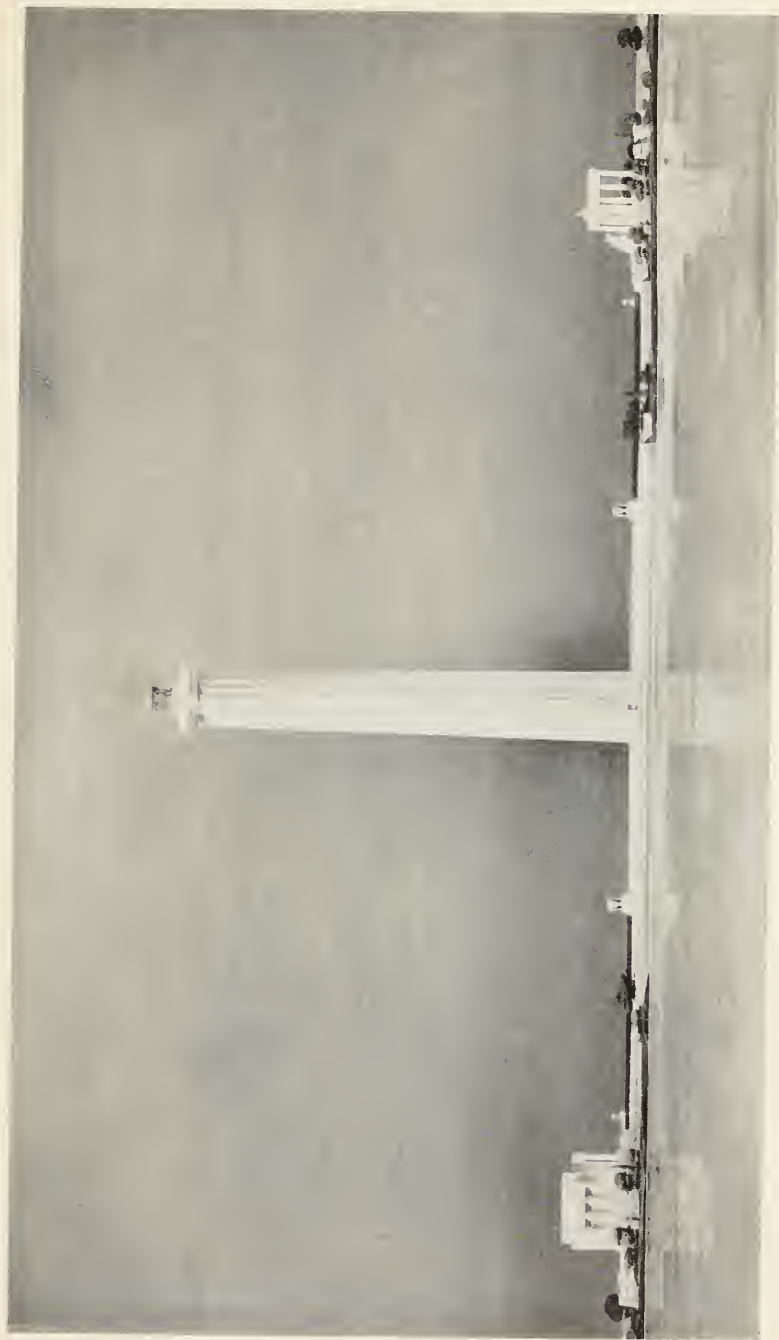


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**Inter-State Board of the
Perry's Victory Centennial Commissioners**
Introduction by
Henry Watterson

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CLEVELAND, OHIO

1856

1856



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THE PERRY MEMORIAL.

J. H. FREEDLANDER and A. D. SEYMOUR, JR., Architects, New York. For description see page 16.

Introduction

Whatever we may or may not be, we Americans can scarcely be called a memorializing people. We seem indeed readier to accept the self-assertion of the living than to erect monuments to the dead. Long ago Barnum, the showman, discovered that even as the average Englishman dearly loves a lord does the average Yankee dearly love a humbug. It is to the women of our land that we are indebted for the stately shaft in honor of Washington which towers over the National Capital, as well as for the ownership of Mount Vernon. Latterly Lincoln has been coming to a proper recognition. But when we look for visible signs of the saints and sages, the heroes and martyrs of other days, we discover that they are few and far between and very hard to find.

In Europe, go where you will, you may not come upon a village or hamlet that boasts not some expression of pious homage and local pride in bronze or marble, some "storied urn or animated bust," recalling the life and deeds of the great man who was born there, whilst the parks, the streets and the public places of the cities and towns are everywhere ennobled and beautified by the imagery, inspired by the nomenclature of the past, vitalizing history and educating and elevating the people.

Around the Great Lakes, as we call our inland oceans, with Chicago, the world-famous, for an axis, flanked by Milwaukee, the Queen City of Wisconsin, and Detroit, the Fairy Goddaughter of Michigan—sailing from Duluth to Buffalo—tarrying awhile at Toledo and Sandusky and Erie—shame upon them!—we look, with a single exception, in vain for some evidence that less than an hundred years ago there lived a man named Oliver Hazard Perry, and, save as a fishing resort, that there is, or ever was a place called Put-in-Bay.

All honor to the single exception! In Cleveland, that miracle of modern progress, which carries Ohio's challenge to the Great Northwest and gives her rivals on either hand a run for their money, we do learn that, on the 10th of September, 1813, a battle was fought by Oliver Hazard Perry in the waters of Put-in-Bay, which enabled the victor to relate that "we have met the enemy and they are ours!"

Next after John Paul Jones stands Oliver Hazard Perry. Jones brought the American Revolution home to England. Perry drove England back behind the barricades of her New France. The fight off Scarborough Head in the North Sea told the world

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its trees of oak and ash to rise and sail the deep; the thunder of the guns carrying Freedom's message of defiance; the havoc, the repulse, the running of the gauntlet of fire and blood from ship to ship. Let me read you the brief, immortal story. I take it from the graphic narrative of John Clark Ridpath.

The Lawrence, Perry's flagship, began to suffer dreadfully under the concentrated fire of the enemy. First one gun and then another was dismounted. The masts were broken. The rigging of the vessel was rent away. The sails were torn to shreds. Soon she yielded no longer to the wind, but lay helpless on the water.

On the deck death held carnival. The American sailors lay dead and dying on every hand. During the two hours that Perry faced his antagonist his men were reduced to a handful. Entering the action the Lawrence had a crew of officers and men numbering a hundred and three. Of these, by 2 o'clock in the afternoon, eighty-three were either dead or wounded. Still Perry held out. Others fell around him, until only the commander and thirteen others were left uninjured.

Meanwhile all the ships had become engaged—but the Niagara only at long range and ineffectively. Elliott, the captain of that vessel, perceiving that resistance from the Lawrence had ceased, now sailed ahead believing that Perry had fallen and that the command had devolved on himself. It was at this juncture that Perry resolved upon that famous exploit which has made his name immortal. He pulled down his battle flag, but left the Stars and Stripes still floating! Then, with his brother Alexander and four of his remaining seamen, he lowered himself into the boat. He flung his pennant and battle flag over his arm and around his person, stepped into the boat, stood upright and ordered the men to pull for the Niagara.

That vessels was more than a half-mile distant. It required the oarsmen fully fifteen minutes to make the passage. The boat had to pass in full exposure to the enemy's guns. The British at once perceived what was doing. As the smoke cleared from around the hull of the Lawrence they saw the daring act of the commander, transferring his flag from one ship to another. His own vessel was shattered to death; but there was the Niagara, hale and strong. Should he succeed in making her deck, the battle would be to fight over again. Victory or defeat was turning on the issue.

The British guns opened on the little boat. Discharge after discharge followed. Some of the shot struck the frail cockle, and the splinters flew; but the men were unhurt. Perry continued to stand up as a target until the faithful seamen refused to pull unless he would sink down to a position of greater safety. The shot from the enemy's guns knocked the water into spray around them, but the boat reached the Niagara in safety, and Perry was taken up. A moment more, and his battle flag was flying above the unhurt ship!

May every schoolboy and every schoolgirl in the land read the rest of it; how, his foot upon the deck of the Niagara, his battle flag again flying at the fore, Perry swooped like a hurricane down upon the enemy's line; cut the British fleet in two, right in the middle, three vessels on the right, three upon the left; broadside after broadside on either hand; death and destruction in his resistless wake. Thirty minutes and all is over. The brave English commander, Barclay, *hors du combat*. His second in command, Finnis, killed outright. Human nature could hold out no longer. Down comes the British flag. We had met the enemy and they were ours, "two ships, two brigs, one schooner

and one sloop," said Perry in his report to Harrison, written upon the back of an old letter, his hat for a desk.

The victor (again I quote from Ridpath) did not in the elation of his triumph forget the situation around him. He caused himself to be transferred from the still unhurt Niagara back to the bloody deck of the Lawrence. There, and not in some other place, would he receive the surrender of the enemy. The British officers as they came up to present their swords had to pick their way through dead and dying, slipping in pools of blood as they came. Perry bade his antagonists retain their swords, his the chivalry of one to whom the fortunes of war had given the power, but not the right, to humiliate a fallen foe.

In the silence of the following night the dead sailors, British and American, were consigned to their last rest in the clear waters of Lake Erie. The next day Perry brought back to Put-in-Bay his own and the captured fleet. Sailing into the harbor, the dead officers of both commands were buried on the shore. The losses had been very great. On the American side twenty-seven were killed and ninety-six wounded—this out of a force of but little over four hundred effective men. The loss of the British was forty-one killed and ninety-four wounded, the gallant Captain Barclay, who had already lost an arm, having the misfortune to lose the other.

Great was the fame of the battle and of him who won it. It was the first time in history that an entire British fleet, large or small, had been taken in any open, equal conflict. Lake Erie was cleared. The way for Harrison and his braves, for Shelby and his hunting shirts, was opened, and forever and ever the Great Northwest, rid of invaders, was redeemed.

A hundred years have come and gone—a hundred years of peace between the two nations of Anglo-Saxon and Scotch-Irish blood and tongue—and we are about to celebrate with fitting rites the heaven-blessed consummation. No wounds survive the Wars of the Revolution or of 1812. Each party to the strife showed itself a valiant. Each carried its trophies from the field, each has nursed its glories, not its griefs. Blood is thicker than water. On the 10th of September, 1913, we shall do honor alike to Barclay and to Perry, the monument over both a Monument of Peace. Thenceforward until the end of 1914, the centenary of the Treaty of Ghent, the jubilation will proceed, mutual and unabated.

Henry Watterson

Louisville, Ky., July 1912.

THE PERRY MEMORIAL

And Centennial Celebration

1813 - 1913

The project to fittingly commemorate, under national and state auspices, the one hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie and of General William Henry Harrison's Northwestern campaign in the War of 1812, in connection with a suitable recognition of the century of peace ensuing between Great Britain and the United States since the termination of that conflict by the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, December 24th, 1814, required, from its beginning, the establishment of new precedents and the adoption of new policies in the history of American expositions and patriotic celebrations. The Commissioners charged with the responsibility of planning and consummating what was proposed to be done were confronted by conditions never before encountered, and by problems hitherto unsolved, in the conduct of enterprises of like character.

It was necessary to combine state and national cooperation and resources for the success of the undertaking—by no means an original policy; but in this case only a limited number of states, or those whose history was most intimately related to the progress and results of the War of 1812, could reasonably be appealed to, from the dual standpoint of mutual interest and expediency, to unite in the general scheme. These states, therefore, composed a sisterhood peculiar unto themselves. The aid of the National Government was required to be supplementary to their united efforts—a moral as well as a material endorsement of them—and hence there could be no beginning without concerted action on the part of certain great American Commonwealths, in some instances remote from one another and bound together in the enterprise only by motives of unselfish patriotism.

The states bordering on the Great Lakes were naturally those first regarded as essential to the combination and most likely to enter into it.

Rhode Island was the native state of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, the hero of the Battle of Lake Erie, and from this New England mother-country of the great Northwest had come many of the sailors who manned his fleet in that crucial conflict, as well as the artisans who were largely responsible for its building.

Kentucky had furnished a large proportion of the soldiers in General Harrison's Northwestern campaign, the brilliant success of which hung upon the victory of the Rhode Island commander. Her contribution to the war had been an essential one in both generalship and numbers, and to its conclusion by the

signing of the Treaty of Ghent she had given the services of her distinguished son, Henry Clay, one of the American commissioners.

Both sentiment and the welfare of the centennial project therefore suggested that Rhode Island and Kentucky should join with the Great Lakes States in whatever might be attempted as an inter-state and national commemoration of the triumph achieved by American valor in the Battle of Lake Erie.

A second consideration, pointing to a centennial observance educational and fraternal in the broadest sense, presented itself in the conclusion of the century of peace between English-speaking peoples that would be practically contemporaneous with the one hundredth anniversary of Perry's Victory; and from the inception of the centennial enterprise the opportunity of a union of British and American interests in the deepest significance of the proposed celebration, and in the dedication of a fitting permanent memorial, has been regarded by the commissioners of the participating states as the most appropriate and desirable object to be achieved by them in connection with the general project.



Lake Erie from the Site of the Perry Memorial.

Still another departure, distinguishing the formal observance of this centenary from all other expositions, was the early resolution of the commissioners that it should have no relation to commercialism; that industrial features should be entirely absent in its consummation, and that in character and scope it should appeal primarily and exclusively to patriotic impulses, serving the purposes of a purely educational movement.

Finally, a material problem was presented to the commissioners in the fact that the only appropriate location of the proposed Perry memorial, at the scene of the Battle of Lake Erie and within sight of the graves of the American and British officers who lost their lives in the engagement, together with the necessary centralization of commemorative exercises at that point, required the project to proceed without local financial

support, but freed from the suggestions of self-interest which have too often accompanied the holding of expositions and celebrations in largely populated communities.

Under these conditions an organization of states was undertaken and has continued to the present time.

THE BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE

There have been few combats on land or sea more tremendous in their consequences than the Battle of Lake Erie. The heroism displayed on both sides of that engagement vindicated the quality of personal bravery in both combatants and requires no eulogy here.

Judged by modern standards, and by not a few in remote periods of the history of war, that conflict, in respect to the loss of treasure or precious human lives, cannot be regarded as among the most costly in the annals of naval warfare. But its well nigh incomparable consequences make it one of the most remarkable of all naval victories.

His early genius for organization and constructive leadership, combined with his youth, daring and devotion, made of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry a romantic, as well as an heroic, figure; but even in this respect he does not stand alone among the great sailors and great soldiers of many nations. The deepest significance of his triumph over the British fleet on that fateful day of September 10, 1813, is to be found in the consequences that ensued from its brilliant consummation.

After the division of the Northwestern Territory, General William Henry Harrison had been appointed governor of the new Territory of Indiana, including the present states of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. These states, joined with Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Rhode Island and Kentucky, are now, after the lapse of one hundred years, the commonwealths most concerned in the history of that period and at present united in the movement to adequately observe its centenary.

General Harrison's commission as major-general, following his earlier participation in the hostilities against the British and Indians, enabled him to push active operations in what was then known as the Sandusky Country. At Seneca Town, near Lower Sandusky Town, now the city of Fremont, Ohio, he received Commodore Perry's laconic note, penned aboard the United States brig "Niagara," off West Sister Island:

"Dear General:—We have met the enemy and they are ours—two ships, two brigs, one schooner and a sloop."

Commodore Perry had accomplished, with the aid of his Rhode Island craftsmen and the genius of Captain Daniel Dobbins, who, more than any other one man, was responsible for the origin of the expedition, the extraordinary feat of building the

more important vessels of his fleet from the hewn timbers of the forests around Presque Isle, now Erie, Pennsylvania, and of launching them in the face of a British blockade. Four of the lesser ships had been purchased at Buffalo and two seized from the British under the guns of Fort Erie, a British stronghold on the Canadian shore opposite Buffalo, by Lieutenant Jesse D. Elliott, U. S. N., and a party of American artillerymen. The naval supremacy of the lakes was at stake in the crucial test of the war of 1812. From August 12 to September 10, 1813, Perry cruised Lake Erie in search of the enemy under command of Captain Barclay. On the latter date the British fleet was descried, as Perry's vessels lay quietly in the harbor of Put-in-Bay, and at once the daring American commander sailed forth to give battle.

The brief but glorious story of the conflict that ensued is known to every schoolboy. The Americans had the advantage in the number of their vessels; the British, in the number and carrying power of their guns and a slight numerical superiority of seamen and officers. The "Lawrence," Perry's flagship, was soon put out of commission by the long range fire of the enemy, leaving only 18 out of her 101 officers and men not dead or disabled. From this bloody wreck the dauntless Perry removed his flag, in a small boat under heavy fire, to the "Niagara"—the most perilous half-mile dash in the history of naval warfare. Bringing all his remaining fleet in action, the young American commander passed through the line of the enemy with successive broadsides at short range, and in the brief space of thirty minutes compelled the surrender of his entire force.



Looking toward the Scene of the Battle of Lake Erie from the Site of the Perry Memorial.

The victory was complete, but not one man on either side could have foreseen the vast consequences of that day's work. The immediate result was the expedition which redeemed Michigan from British rule. Had Perry been defeated, General Harrison's army would have been isolated in the Sandusky Country of Ohio, impotent to strike a blow toward the north.

SUPREME CONSEQUENCES.

Perry's victory enabled General Harrison to embark his troops aboard the war-scarred American fleet, which had been launched at Erie harbor only a month before but had made enduring history in this incredibly brief period. Sparing time merely two days, to assemble the military forces on Put-in-Bay Island, the American army set sail for Michigan. The city of Detroit was evacuated by the British, who were pursued into Canada and utterly routed at the battle of the Thames, October 5, when the Kentucky troops particularly distinguished themselves under the command of that eminent soldier and statesman, Governor Isaac Shelby. From that supreme hour of battle beyond Put-in-Bay harbor, September 10, 1813, the destinies of the vast domain now comprising the western section of New York and the greater part of what is known as the Middle West and Northwest, were fixed forever within the boundaries of the American Union.

From an international standpoint Perry's victory won for American arms the respect of the world. It was notice to Europe, and one never since unheeded, that the nation which was baptized in blood at Lexington was amply able, as an infant republic, to care for herself on land and sea. It had a conclusive effect, not only in terminating the war of 1812, but in establishing terms in respect to the future boundary line between Canada and the United States most favorable to the latter.

THE TREATY OF GHENT.

The Treaty of Ghent, signed in 1814 on the part of the United States by those distinguished American statesmen, John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay and Albert Gallatin, put an end to the war before the tidings could reach General Jackson at New Orleans in time to prevent the achievement of an American military victory quite as decisive as Perry's naval success in the Battle of Lake Erie. It was inevitable that the American commissioners should claim, and the British concede, the supremacy of the Great Lakes which Perry had placed beyond question; and that supremacy exists today as it was then established. It presaged in the settlement of all boundary disputes the retention by the United States of a princely domain, distributed between the great commonwealths already mentioned, bordering on the Great Lakes, which, together with Rhode Island and Kentucky, are now joined in the movement in behalf of the Perry's Victory Centennial celebration during the summer of 1913 at Put-in-Bay Island and the dedication at that time of a permanent memorial to Commodore Perry and his men.

The debt which our Lake States owe to Perry's victory by reason of the establishment of their present boundaries is emphasized by the fact that the Treaty of Ghent wholly ignored any attempt to settle the real cause of the war, the impressment of

American seamen. It is evident that the American commissioners regarded the boundary question as more important than the impressment question, notwithstanding the latter had been the technical *casus belli*; and it is equally evident that the British commissioners, with Perry's victory in mind, were willing to waive boundary questions that would have been insisted upon, if fate had crowned Captain Barclay, instead of Commodore Perry, as the hero of the battle of Lake Erie.

In framing the Treaty of Ghent Great Britain solaced her honor by conceding no principle laid down by the United States in respect to the justice of the war from the American standpoint, but accepted the inevitable with reference to the boundary question.

And so Perry's Victory wrote the name of the United States of America high on the map of the Western Hemisphere. Thus it insured the unprecedented growth of our Great Lakes ports, with their vast commercial and industrial relations, under the American flag. Thus it gave to this sisterhood of states the agricultural and mineral riches of a territory second to none in the world, of equal extent, in the natural resources that denote Opportunity in the favored places of the earth. Thus it bound in the destiny of the Republic each noble commonwealth whose slightest border is laved by the lakes, welding the strongest links in the chain of our national progress and providing foothold and freedom for the development of American civilization.

THE CENTENNIAL ORGANIZATION

The first authoritative action looking to the proposed celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the battle of Lake Erie, of General Harrison's campaign and the ensuing centenary of peace between Great Britain and the United States, was very appropriately taken by the state of Ohio, within whose borders the battle was fought and its dead buried, in the waters of Lake Erie or by the picturesque shores of Put-in-Bay Island. In 1908 the Ohio General Assembly authorized the Governor to appoint five commissioners "to prepare and carry out plans" for a centennial celebration, and authorized the commissioners thus appointed by Governor Andrew L. Harris on June 22, 1908, to invite the co-operation therein of the Lake States and the Commonwealths of Rhode Island and Kentucky. During a period of two years following, this invitation was accepted by the appointment of commissioners, in the order named, by the states of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, Rhode Island, Kentucky and Minnesota. Ohio, in three appropriation acts, appropriated the total sum of \$83,000 for the objects in view, and meanwhile Congress was appealed to for material support. In March, 1911, it appropriated \$250,000, the bill meeting the instant approval of President Taft. The state appropriations up to and



PUT-IN-BAY HARBOR SHORE LINE OF

including 1912, were as follows: Ohio, \$83,000; Pennsylvania, \$75,000; Wisconsin, \$50,000; Rhode Island, \$25,000; and Kentucky, \$25,000, making a total available from all sources of \$508,000.

During the legislative sessions of 1913 appropriations will be pending in the states of Michigan, Illinois, New York, Minnesota and Indiana, in all of which proportionately generous responses are anticipated. The legislature of Louisiana has given the Governor authority to appoint three commissioners in order to express in a formal manner the interest of the people of that state in the proposed memorial and centennial celebration.

At Put-in-Bay Island, September 10, 1910, was effected the organization of the "Inter-State Board of the Perry's Victory Centennial Commissioners," which has since continued as the governing body of the enterprise. The present personnel of the organization effected at that time appears elsewhere in these pages. The general offices of the Inter-State Board are at Cleveland, Ohio.

In accordance with the act of Congress, President Taft appointed as the United States Commissioners, Lieutenant General Nelson A. Miles, U. S. A., Retired, Rear Admiral Charles E. Clark, U. S. N., Retired, and General J. Warren Keifer of Ohio, who are, in common with the commissioners of the various states, members of the Inter-State Board.

The Building Committee of the Perry memorial consists of President-General George H. Worthington, United States Com-



THE SITE OF THE PERRY MEMORIAL.

missioner Nelson A. Miles and First Vice-President-General Henry Watterson, with the Secretary-General of the Inter-State Board as Secretary.

Various other committees have been duly constituted and have discharged their respective duties during the past two years. The most important of these are the Committee on Legislation, Promotion and Publicity, Commissioner A. E. Sisson, chairman, and the Committee on Centennial Celebration, Commissioner Milton W. Shreve, chairman.

A CENTURY OF PEACE

At the very inception of the preliminary organization a suggestion to fittingly celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, by the National Government and all the states participating, was formally adopted; and what is believed to have been the first official announcement of such an undertaking, in the United States or Great Britain, was set forth in the following words contained in the report of the Ohio Commissioners to the Governor of Ohio, filed January 12, 1909:

"Your commissioners are greatly impressed by the fact that the centennial anniversary of Perry's Victory will be practically contemporaneous with the conclusion of one hundred years of peace between the governments of Great Britain, Canada and the United States, beginning with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, December 24, 1814, which terminated the War of 1812. We are

thus confronted with at least the possibility of an international event on Ohio soil, hardly five years hence, participated in by the two great English-speaking nations of the world, under the highest official auspices. What could be more appropriate than an international celebration of the conclusion of the century of peace between Great Britain, Canada and the United States, which has ensued since the signing of the Treaty of Ghent? Surely that were better than a one-sided celebration of a victory of war; and we believe that such a celebration would have lasting influence for good, while affording a spectacle worthy of world-wide respect and emulation."

The appropriateness of this suggestion was manifest. It was the Treaty of Ghent that preserved the neutrality of the Great Lakes for one hundred years and gave the civilized world its first object lesson in the practicability and efficacy of international peace. Here, if anywhere, the bonds that unite the two great English-speaking nations are symbolized. Here all the interests of the United States and Great Britain, material and sentimental, are concentrated within the area of the inland seas. Here the dead in the conflict, whose centenary it is now proposed to celebrate, were buried, British and American alike, with funeral rites celebrated by the representatives of both fleets, and here the peace of one hundred years has consecrated their sacrifices.

The centennial commissioners therefore always maintained that any adequate conception of an American memorial to the heroism of our sailors and soldiers in the War of 1812 must emphasize the equal valor of our opponents in that conflict and commemorate the century of peace which has since blest humanity as the result of the statesmanship and patriotism which inspired the signing and ratification of the Treaty of Ghent.

THE PERRY MEMORIAL

From the inception of the centennial enterprise to the present time the commissioners have always proposed that a permanent memorial overlooking the scene of the battle of Lake Erie and the graves of the British and American officers who participated in it should be their essential purpose in achieving the objects for which they were appointed. Every suggestion of history and sentiment pointed to Put-in-Bay Island, Lake Erie, Ohio, as the logical site. The general character of the memorial to be erected was thus outlined in a report of the commissioners then acting, in December, 1909.

"It is with a sense of solemn obligation that your commissioners have considered the subject of an appropriate Perry memorial. Our own opinion is fortified by universal public sentiment to the effect that such a memorial must be permanent. It must not only express

the patriotic desire of the American people to pay lasting tribute to their honored dead, but it must be in the highest sense artistic and historically suggestive. It must have, by reason of these qualities, a peculiar educational influence upon future generations, proceeding from its singular individuality. Better no memorial than an inadequate or unworthy one. The motive that prompts our people to thus commemorate one of the most glorious events in our history and the Nation's subsequent progress of a hundred years must be as broad as the American Continent and as deep rooted as our inherent love of free institutions. Nothing less will suffice than a memorial truly national in character, taking rank among the worthiest of such structures in the world."

The site of the memorial was acquired by the commissioners some time prior to the adoption of the design finally agreed upon. It consists of a reservation of about fourteen acres in extent, with some fourteen hundred feet of water front on both sides, situated in the narrow neck of land at Put-in-Bay Island substantially opposite Gibraltar Island and extending northward toward Middle Bass Island. It overlooks the waters of Lake Erie toward West Sister Island, whence Commodore Perry sent his famous message to General Harrison, and in the very shadow of the memorial will lie Gibraltar Island, where the American commander made his observations; Ballast Island, where his fleet paused to obtain ballast from the rocky shores; and the historic Bay which afforded it shelter. On the shore of this Bay, not far from the memorial site, are the graves of American and British officers killed in the battle of Lake Erie, and it is proposed that their remains shall be disinterred and find final resting places within the memorial when erected. It is fortunate indeed that Nature in her most generous mood has bestowed upon this spot attractions as beautiful as its historical suggestions are significant.

The accepted design of the Perry memorial, by Mr. J. H. Freedlander and Mr. A. D. Seymour, Jr., of New York City, was adopted as the winner of the first prize in an architectural competition conducted at Washington, D. C., in January, 1912, under the auspices of the National Commission of Fine Arts. The finding of this commission was unanimous and was thereupon approved by the Inter-State Board of the Perry's Victory Centennial Commissioners in session at Washington.

The competition was said by competent authority to have been the most remarkable in the history of this country, both in point of the number and merit of the designs submitted. Eighty-seven architects and architectural firms qualified to enter the competition under the terms of the program promulgated by the Building Committee, and fifty-four actually presented designs.

The latter were exhibited in the National Museum at Washington, and the exhibition as a whole was the subject of the highest expert approval and admiration.

The accepted design, when completed as contemplated, will cover, with its plaza, almost all of the reservation dedicated as a park to the memorial. The plaza, rising in a gradual ascent from the water's edge to the level height of 12 feet, is 758 feet long and 461 feet wide. The Doric column in the center, as shown in the accompanying illustration, is 335 feet in height, from the base to the light on the tripod surmounting the cap,



which is 300 feet high, with a spectators' gallery reached by electric elevators from the crypt at the base, where the bones of the dead in the battle of Lake Erie will be interred. The column is 45 feet in diameter at the base and 35 feet at the top—the highest monument in the world, with the exception of the Washington monument at the National Capital, and the highest column without exception. The material used in the column will be granite. This column has been officially declared by the Interstate Board as the Perry memorial, and the plaza and adjacent buildings are accessories thereto.

"Perry's Lookout" and "The Needle's Eye,"
Gibraltar Island.

The building on the left, as shown in the illustration, is an historical museum containing a floor space of 3,000 square feet, and the building to the right is emblematic of the century of peace between Great Britain and the United States that will have ensued, within a brief period, since the signing of the Treaty of Ghent on December 24th, 1814.

The parking of the grounds will be in harmony with the beauty and dignity of this architectural conception, every detail of which will appear with equal charm to the eye from both sides, or from the waters of Put-in-Bay harbor westward and those of Lake Erie eastward.

FOR HUMAN WELFARE

The intention of the commissioners to convey to the National Government the title to the reservation containing the Perry memorial has for a long time suggested that the property may be put to some practical use of great future benefit to humanity, aside from its significance as a reservation dedicated to history, art and progress. The site is an admirable one for the location of a wireless telegraph station capable of receiving and discharging messages over the whole chain of lakes, a life saving station and a meteorological bureau. Inasmuch as Put-in-Bay Island is the only island of the Great Lakes connected with the mainland by both telephone and telegraph, and is located almost in the geographical center of Lake Erie, the most treacherous of these waters, a central wireless telegraph station at this point would be able to communicate with all the life saving stations on the Great Lakes, including those not equipped with wireless.

The losses of life from wrecks, which might be prevented under an adequate wireless system, average about 100 per year, and the losses of property about \$1,000,000 per year. It is a noteworthy fact that safety of life on the ocean at the present time is very largely due to the wireless equipment of the navies of the world, in addition to that of the commercial fleets, whereas under the terms of the Treaty of Ghent there never can be extensive naval armaments of either Great Britain or the United States on the Great Lakes. It is needless to assert that every precaution must ultimately be taken to make navigation on the Great Lakes at least as safe as modern science has caused it to be on the ocean.

Such practical adjuncts of the Perry memorial must be left to the determination of the National Government at such time as it may take possession of the property, but they suggest meanwhile the possibility of the memorial combining the highest artistic ideals and historical significance with lasting practical benefits to humanity.

THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The centennial celebration of the events proposed to be commemorated is by no means designed to be confined to Put-in-Bay Island, but will extend to all the principal ports on the Great Lakes and to such other cities in the states participating as may desire to locally commemorate the events of the War of 1812. The centennial period will extend from the Fourth of

July to the fifth of October, 1913, the latter date being the one hundredth anniversary of the battle of the Thames, with the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of Perry's Victory on the tenth day of September, 1913, centralized at Put-in-Bay Island.

At no time or place is any industrial exposition contemplated; but the commissioners have specifically announced that the enterprise, wherever its spirit may be emphasized, "shall take the form of an historical, educational, military, naval and patriotic exposition."

The military aspect of the celebration, from an historical standpoint, will take due cognizance of General Harrison's march through Ohio to the Lakes, his encampment on the present site of Fremont, his embarkation on board Perry's fleet, his sojourn at Put-in-Bay, his entrance into Michigan, his liberation of Detroit and his invasion of Canada, culminating in the crowning success of his campaign at the Battle of the Thames. The present physical boundaries of all the states bordering on the Great Lakes



Lake Erie Shore Line of the Site of the Perry Memorial.

are due to these military operations, which were rendered possible by Perry's Victory; and the commissioners have faith that the present generation of their citizens will welcome the opportunity offered by the proposed series of celebrations to pay tribute to the heroes who thus laid the foundations of future greatness in the empires of the Middle West and Northwest.

The vicinity of Camp Perry, Ohio, the most extensive rifle range in the world, to the various cities of the Great Lakes which will join in the series of celebrations, greatly simplifies the problem of the assemblage and transportation of troops which may participate in the local celebrations. At this point also will occur during the summer of 1913, the most notable rifle range contests ever held in this country or Europe, including the International, the Pan-American and the American National contests.

The naval aspect of the centennial, historically considered, gives rise to anticipations of one of the most unique and instructive

of national spectacles. The commissioners of the State of Pennsylvania have proposed to raise and restore the wreck of the flagship "Niagara," of Commodore Perry's fleet, which has lain for nearly a century at the bottom of the harbor of Erie, Pa.; and this proposal has led the national and state commissioners to consider the temporary restoration of practically the whole of the American and British fleets engaged in the Battle of Lake Erie and to celebrate the unbroken peace which has existed for one hundred years between Great Britain and the United States by conveying the combined fleets to the principal ports on the Great Lakes, thus extending the patriotic celebration to the immediate interest and participation of hundreds of thousands of citizens who would otherwise be deprived of its moral lessons.

It is also proposed that United States vessels of war, with consent of the British and Canadian governments, may enter the Great Lakes and participate in a naval review which is planned through the union of the naval militia of the several Lake States in such a spectacle. In itself such a modern review, held for the first time on fresh water, would awaken very widespread interest and be of great value to the United States Navy by thus affording the people of the great Middle West and Northwest an opportunity to realize the dignity, value and necessity of our National naval armament, while giving new energy and direction to American patriotism.

In this connection the participation of the naval militia of the Great Lakes in the various local celebrations is a factor of the entire centennial enterprise that must be regarded as of primary importance. From these waters the American Navy is largely recruited, and any object having in view the welfare of our inland naval militia is one which should appeal to the sympathy and support of the people of the entire country.

THE COMMERCIAL MARINE PAGEANT

From the standpoint of evolution in the arts of peace and the development of commerce, however, even greater significance may attach to the review of the shipping of the Great Lakes, surpassing in tonnage that of New York harbor or the commerce of the Suez Canal, which it is proposed to organize as perhaps the most important marine display of the centennial celebration.

Nothing could be more appropriate, more impressive or more indicative of the spirit pervading the whole enterprise than the assemblage in these waters, as a tribute to a century of progress, of the greatest commercial fleet in the world, passing in review before the Chief Executive of the Nation and the official representatives of the states which today owe their extensive boundaries to Perry's Victory. Such a display, it is believed, would be both a moral and material object lesson more

truly significant of American progress and of the real mission of our people among the nations of the earth than any review of warships or assemblage of the enginery and equipment of war could be, at any time or place.

The centennial period will also witness the greatest regatta ever held on fresh waters, marking the latest development of American invention and skill as related to all types of pleasure craft.

INTERESTS OF EDUCATION

The commissioners have constantly borne in mind, however, the essential historic, educational and patriotic aspects of the centennial enterprise. Since the usual features of an industrial exposition are entirely absent in what is proposed to be achieved, except only in respect to the shipping interests of the Great Lakes, the successful conclusion of the project will involve no such great expense as is commonly associated in the public mind with the word "exposition," and the resources and energies of the commissioners and of the communities engaged in the various celebrations may be conserved for the promotion of patriotic and educational objects only.

The great number of historical, scientific, art, fraternal, political, patriotic, commercial and other societies and organizations, and the important educational institutions, all of which flourish in their various fields of usefulness within the states participating in the centennial, may be relied upon to give the highest value to the educational program during the centennial period of 1913 at Put-in-Bay Island and in all the cities joined in the celebration. In this manner the educational heritage of the celebration will be handed down to posterity, while the patriotic lesson it must impart will be permanently expressed in the memorial erected in honor of the heroes of the Battle of Lake Erie on both sides of the conflict and in commemoration of the century of peace between the two greatest nations.

CELEBRATIONS BY MUNICIPALITIES

The suggestion to extend the celebration of the centenary under consideration to all the centers of population on the Great Lakes, and to such other large cities as may desire to take advantage of the opportunity to join with them in a series of notable patriotic demonstrations, has met with very general favor. It is proposed to divide the centennial period of July 4th to October 5th, 1913, between the cities entering upon the general plan, devoting one week to each municipality.

From an economic standpoint the merging of the resources of all the cities for celebration purposes, in part at least, in one fund, under the direction of the general plan of organization, has distinct advantages. By the adoption of this scheme each

city in the chain of those celebrating will have the advantage of attractions which no city could assemble upon its own initiative and exclusively for its own benefit.

The centennial fleet, escorting the restored "Niagara," will visit in rotation all the ports of the Great Lakes joining in the series of celebrations during the summer of 1913. The same marine pageants and the same military ceremonies may be produced in each city, accompanied by such local ceremonies and additional attractions as may be determined upon by the different communities. In this manner, where one city for a single celebration might raise a fund of \$50,000 or \$100,000 for the objects in view, each city uniting with its sister city, as is here indicated, would have the benefit of the spectacles presented by an organization representing an investment of from \$200,000 to \$400,000.



Photograph from a Model of the Perry Memorial by Menconi Brothers of New York.
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The advantages of this plan have appealed emphatically to the organized bodies in the various cities interested to which they have already been presented, with the result that at this writing (August, 1912) preliminary or permanent organizations looking to such a union of interests are in existence in such leading cities as Chicago, Cleveland, Buffalo, Detroit, Milwaukee, Toledo, Erie, Pa., and Sandusky, O. An effective scheme of co-operation will presentiv be presented by the state and national commissioners to the representatives of such cities, whose boards of trade, chambers of commerce, historical societies, industrial organizations and educational institutions are urged to manifest proper interest in the enterprise, to the end that it may result in a series of patriotic demonstrations unequaled in this country and calculated to be of lasting benefit to posterity.

The series of celebrations that have already been determined upon will conclude with a week of patriotic demonstrations and

educational exercises in the city of Louisville, Ky., with the 5th of October, 1913, the one hundredth anniversary of the Battle of the Thames, in which the Kentucky troops exhibited such memorable valor, as the central day. We have therefore in this project an opportunity not only to signalize the progress of the great Middle West and Northwest during the past century, with friendly intent toward our brethren on the other side of the Canadian border, but also the prospect of extending the significance of the celebration far to the southward, effecting a union of interest between sections of this country remote from one another but indissolubly bound together by mutual ties of patriotism and brotherhood.

BUREAU OF PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTIONS

Aside from the cost of the various local celebrations and the general expense of promoting the erection of the Perry Memorial and the organization of affairs incident thereto, for which the national and state commissioners will be held responsible, there is no likelihood that the direct appropriations from national and state governments will suffice for the completion of the memorial, including the Peace building dedicated to international amity. With this fact in mind the Inter-State Board has organized a bureau of public subscriptions and placed it under the direction of Financial Secretary Mackenzie R. Todd, a member of the Kentucky commission, with headquarters in the general offices at Cleveland.

It is believed that, notwithstanding generous support of the general project by the states participating in the centennial, the public should not be deprived of the opportunity to render practical and substantial aid to an object so worthy. It is felt that the Perry Memorial and all its adjuncts will mean more to the people of this country if built in part directly by them, than could be the case if its construction were limited to the resources devoted thereto by state and national appropriations. And it is recalled that most of the great memorials of the world have been erected in greater part by private means.

Believing that no memorial in this country could appeal with greater sympathy to the American spirit than one dedicated to the sacrifices of our forefathers in the War of 1812, and to the past and future peace of the world, the commissioners hope for a widespread and generous recognition of the opportunity afforded by their Bureau of Public Subscriptions to all individuals and organizations inclined to co-operate with them.

The appeal of the commissioners for the fitting consummation of all the objects in view is an appeal to the patriotism of the American people.

The Inter-State Board of the Perry's Victory Centennial Commissioners

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